

hired to do with an adversary breathing down your neck, questioning your every move, waiting for your next misstep. Trent Lott ought to just cut it out. *[Laughter]*

Now, many of you have been writing about my so-called stealth campaign for reelection. We hit our first major setback this week when the RNC broke the code on our press releases. But I want you to know I'm holding firm to my strategy, and my strategy is working. In fact, according to the New York Times, my Vice President is closer to formally announcing his candidacy than I am. *[Laughter]*

By the way, I want to congratulate the Times on that "Al Gore Wants to be President" scoop. *[Laughter]* Pulitzer's in the bag. *[Laughter]*

Some of you have been asking for 6 months now, when is this announcement speech? In keeping with the stealth campaign strategy, Mike McCurry had this idea that instead of the traditional announcement speech, tonight I should just give an off-the-record announcement on what he calls—he calls—"psych background." *[Laughter]* As if we didn't have enough trouble. So that way I could give you some insight into my truly secret, private thoughts about this election.

So, if we can all agree on the ground rules—*[laughter]*—I'd like to give you a sense of the musings of my inner candidate. *[Laughter]* You can attribute these remarks to a source inside the President's suit. *[Laughter]*

Now, I had occasion to give this topic considerable thought last weekend as I was going through the Sunday classified ads. *[Laughter]* Gosh, there must have been 8½ million listings, all of them at good wages. *[Laughter]* But I couldn't find a single job I'd prefer to this one.

So, in lieu of a formal announcement speech, you can report on psych background that Bill Clinton is under the strong impression that America is a great country, and that we are living in an age of possibility. Bill Clinton suspects that America is moving in the right direction, but we have to keep working together to find common ground. Bill Clinton is inclined to think he can help us meet America's challenges with just one more term.

Now, I'd like to go back on the record to say thank you and good night. *[Laughter]* So you may report that Bill Clinton said, "Thank you, and good night."

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Carl Leubersdorf, outgoing president, and Terence Hunt, incoming president, White House Correspondents Association; Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; Ralph Reed, Jr., executive director, Christian Coalition; Howard Fineman, columnist, Newsweek magazine; comedian Al Franken; Leon E. Panetta, White House Chief of Staff; and political consultant Mary Matalin.

## Statement on Violent Crime

May 5, 1996

For 5 straight years before I took office, violent crime increased in America. Because of our tough and smart decisions to put more cops

on the street and get kids, guns, and drugs off the street, we are now beginning to reverse the trend in violent crime.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

May 4, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public

Law 102-1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance